

RANGE EXTENSIONS FOR TWO POORLY KNOWN QUEENSLAND SNAKES *Memoirs of the Queensland Museum* 46(2): 400, 2001—*Furina dumalli* (Worrell, 1955) and *Suta dwyeri* (Worrell, 1956) are amongst the least known of Australia's many poorly known elapids. The former, narrowly confined to mid- and southeastern Queensland, is known from only 2 specimens in the Australian Museum and is a 'vulnerable' species (Longmore, 1986; Ingram & Raven, 1991; McDonald et al., 1991; Cogger et al., 1993; IUCN Council, 1994; Nature Conservation Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 1997). *Suta dwyeri* occurs from southern Queensland to northern Victoria and, if museum collections are any guide, is more common. It has no special conservation status (Longmore, 1986; Ingram & Raven, 1991) but its taxonomic status is uncertain (Cogger, 2000; Cogger et al., 1993).

During recent surveys in Queensland's Brigalow Belt and Desert Uplands Bioregions, one specimen of each species was discovered and both extend the known distributions.

Furina dumalli

This snake, collected from the outskirts of Clermont (22°45'S, 147°35'E), in the Northern Brigalow Belt Bioregion, was presented to the Emerald office of the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service for identification (late summer, 1999). The specimen was identified as *F. dumalli* and lodged with the Queensland Museum (QMJ73000). It was melanistic, lacking pale diffuse blotches/barring on the upper lips. (Such barring occurs on all specimens in the QM collection; P. Couper, pers. comm.). Vegetation communities adjacent to Clermont include *Eucalyptus coolabah* and *L. populnea* (poplar box) woodlands on alluvials and *E. crebra* (narrow-leaved ironbark) and *Acacia rhodoxylon* (rosewood) on shallow rocky soils.

Two specimens in the Australian Museum came from the southern Brigalow Belt (27°15'S, 149°41'E) and the South-east Queensland Bioregion (27°37'S, 151°37'E). The Queensland Museum has 7 specimens from the southern Brigalow Belt (Oakey 27°26'S, 151°43'E; Miles 26°4'S, 150°11'E; Taroom 25°18'S, 149°1'E; and Maidenwell 26°51'S, 151°48'E); two from the South-east Queensland Bioregion (Archookoorn 26°44'S, 151°48'E and Gladstone 23°57'S, 151°16'E); and one from the Northern Brigalow Belt (Mt Archer, via Rockhampton 23°21'S, 150°34'E).

The Clermont specimen of *F. dumalli* extends the distribution approximately 300km to the north west of Mt Archer. It is the first from the Central Highlands of the northern Brigalow Belt Bioregion, an area assailed by tree clearing.

Suta dwyeri

An adult *Suta dwyeri* (nomenclature after Hutchinson, 1990) was removed by the authors from a pitfall trap on the 12/11/99, while surveying in poplar box open woodland on Monklands Station via Alpha, Southern Desert Uplands Bioregion (23°28'48"S, 146°25'13"E). Identification was verified by P.J. Couper of the Queensland Museum and the specimen lodged in the Queensland Museum collection (QMJ72321). The locality was a large (about 40,000ha) poplar box and silver-leaved ironbark woodland with an open grassland understorey dominated by *Aristida* spp. (wiregrasses), *Bothriochloa erwartiana* (desert bluegrass), *Chrysopogon fallax* (golden beardgrass), *Heteropogon contortus* (black spear grass), and *Triodia mitchellii* (buck spinifex) on texture contrast soils.

Suta dwyeri (Worrell, 1956) has an unstable taxonomic history. It has been placed in *Denisonia*, *Unechis*, *Rhinoplocephalus* and *Suta*, and has been treated as a subspecies of *Suta spectabilis* (Krefft, 1869), e.g. Worrell,

1956; Longmore, 1986; Wilson & Knowles, 1988; Hutchinson, 1990; Ingram & Raven, 1991; Ehmann, 1992; Cogger, 2000. The species is poorly known and its distribution ill-defined. Covacevich & Couper (in Ingram & Raven, 1991) showed it to be confined primarily (in Queensland) to the eastern Mulga Lands, Southern Brigalow Belt, and South-east Queensland Bioregions. Two specimens have also been collected from the northern Brigalow Belt, Newlands Mine near Mackay (21°11'S, 147°54"E; QMJ65065), and Townsville (19°16'S, 146°49"E; AMRI11942).

The Monklands specimen is the first record from Queensland's Desert Uplands Bioregion. The nearest *S. dwyeri* locality is at Mt Moffatt in the Carnarvon Ranges (20°35'S, 140°13"E; QMJ59373), 225km to the southeast; the Newlands Mine record is 300km to the northeast. *Suta dwyeri* is now known to range through the Mulga Lands, Southeast Queensland, Brigalow Belt and the Desert Uplands Bioregions.

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